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Docket No.: 50340-110 **PATENT**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of : Customer Number: 20277

Takashi HOSOTANI, et al. : Confirmation Number: 3180

Serial No.: 09/977,405 : Group Art Unit: 3617

Filed: October 16, 2001 : Examiner: Long Nguyen

For: AXLE SUPPORTING STRUCTURE FOR INDUSTRIAL VEHICLES

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

JAN 2 7 2004 GROUP 3600

Mail Stop DD Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that the documents be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance.

CERTIFICATION PARAGRAPH

The undersigned certifies that, to the best of his knowledge, each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a

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foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the

filing of this Information Disclosure Statement as described in 37 CFR 1.97(e)(1).

Each non-English language reference was cited in a corresponding foreign application

search report or office action and its relevance discussed therein. A copy of the foreign search

report or office action, together with an English language version thereof, is attached for the

Examiner's information.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including

extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit

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Respectfully submitted,

MCDERMQTT, WILL & EMERY

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Date: January 23, 2004

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^{*}EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.